

Flashback From Boiler Injures 2 Arsenal Workers

When a flashback occurred in a small boiler in the fire house on the Joliet arsenal reservation about 8:45 o'clock last night, two firemen from the arsenal who were attempting to adjust the oil equipment, were injured.

They are: John J. McGee, Jr., 32, of 7 Wilson avenue, and Fire Chief Roy W. Mortenson, 42, of Rockford.

BOTH WERE taken to St. Joseph's hospital for treatment. McGee suffered first degree burns on the face and neck, according to Capt. William Bowman, executive officer at the arsenal. He will remain in the hospital for several days, it was indicated. His condition is good, hospital attaches said.

Mortenson, suffered a rib fracture as a result of the flashback. The door of the firebox was blown off and struck him in the chest, Capt. Bowman explained. Mortenson was given emergency treatment at the hospital and released.

"IF THE TWO men had not been attempting to adjust the boiler when the flashback occurred, they would have been out of the danger zone," Bowman said. McGee, who was nearest the firebox, was struck in the face by the flames from the flash, he reported.

The total damage to the boiler and fire house was estimated at approximately \$100, according to the executive officer.